

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An exchange including a plurality of line interfaces to be connected with a line wire, and one or more extension interfaces to be connected with an extension, for connecting either the line wire and the extension or the extension and another extension, thereby to form a channel, comprising:

a time-division switch for connecting the line wire and the extension and for forming a channel between each other;

a memory for grouping at least two telephone numbers of [[the]] an extension number assigned to the extension and the telephone number of the line wire, into at least one group and for registering the group; and

a controller for controlling the exchanging action either between the line wire and [[the]] an extension or between the extensions,

wherein when said controller receives a conference opening demand for [[the]] a conference communications via a first extension and a group number, said controller:

performs a conference calling termination by acquiring the number of other extensions belonging to the same group as that of [[said]] the first extension having demanded the conference communications, from said memory; and

controls said time-division switch so as to establish unidirectional communications from [[said]] the first extension to the other extensions responding to the conference calling termination.

2. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 1,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the unidirectional communications when it receives an additional participation demand together with another new extension number via [[said]] the first extension, a conference calling termination on the demanded extension number.

3. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 1,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the unidirectional communications when it receives an excluding demand and one extension number of the other extensions via [[said]] the first extension, said time-division switch so as to cut the communication with the extension number demanded.

4. (Original) The exchange according to Claim 1,
wherein said controller performs the conference calling termination and starts a time measurement, and stops, when a predetermined time elapses before the other extension responds, the conference calling termination at the unresponding other extension.

5. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 1,
wherein said controller transmits, when it controlled ~~[[said]]~~ the unidirectional communications, a signal for the unidirectional communication display to ~~[[said]]~~ the first extension and the other extension.

6. (Original) The exchange according to Claim 1,
wherein the conference calling can terminate not only at the other extension for the conference calling termination but also at the extension.

7. (Currently Amended) An exchange including a plurality of line interfaces to be connected with a line wire, and one or more extension interfaces to be connected with an extension, for connecting either the line wire and the extension or the extension and another extension, thereby to form a channel, comprising:

a time-division switch, connecting the line wire and the extension and for forming a channel between each other;

a conference trunk for synthesizing voices;

a memory for grouping at least two telephone numbers of ~~[[the]]~~ an extension number assigned to the extension and the telephone number of the line wire, into at least one group and for registering the group; and

a controller, controlling the exchanging action either between the line wire and the extension or between the extensions,

wherein when said controller receives a conference opening demand together with a group number for a conference communications via a first extension and the group number, said controller:

performs a conference calling termination by acquiring the number of other extensions belonging to the same group as that of [[said]] the first extension having demanded the conference communications, from said memory; and

controls said time-division switch so as to establish unidirectional communications from [[said]] the first extension to the other extensions responding to the conference calling termination, and

wherein said controller further controls, when it receives a demand for bidirectional communications from any extension for [[said]] the unidirectional communications, said time-division switch so that [[said]] the extension having demanded the bidirectional communications and the first extension may make bidirectional communications.

8. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,

wherein, in case the bidirectional communication demand was made from the other extension, the control of said bidirectional communications is made after a response of approval was received from [[said]] the first extension.

9. (Original) The exchange according to Claim 7,

wherein said controller controls said conference trunk in addition to said time-division

switch to perform the bidirectional communications, and transmits the signal synthesized by said conference trunk, as a reception voice to the other extension not participating in the bidirectional communications, so that the other extension not participating in the bidirectional communications can be attended.

10. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the bidirectional communications when it receives an additional participation demand and another new extension number via [[said]] the first extension, a conference calling termination on the demanded extension number.

11. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the bidirectional communications when it receives a selecting demand together with one extension number of the other extensions via [[said]] the first extension, said time-division switch so that the demanded extension number may change from said bidirectional communications to [[said]] the unidirectional communication.

12. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the unidirectional communications when it receives an excluding demand and one extension number of the other extensions via [[said]] the first extension, said time-division switch so as to cut the communication with the extension number demanded.

13. (Original) The exchange according to Claim 7, wherein said controller performs the conference calling termination and starts a time measurement, and stops, when a predetermined time elapses before the other extension responds, the conference calling termination at the unresponding other extension.

14. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein said controller transmits, when it controlled [[said]] the unidirectional communications, a signal for [[said]] the unidirectional communication display to [[said]] the first extension and the other extension.

15. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein said controller transmits, when it controlled [[said]] the bidirectional communications, a signal for said bidirectional communication display to [[said]] the first extension and the other extension.

16. (Original) The exchange according to Claim 7,
wherein the conference calling can terminate not only at the other extension for the conference calling termination but also at the line wire.

17. (Currently Amended) The exchange including a plurality of line interfaces to be connected with a line wire, and one or more extension interfaces to be connected with an extension, for connecting either the line wire and the extension or the extension and another extension, thereby to form a channel, comprising:

a time-division switch for connecting the line wire and the extension and for forming a channel between each other;

a conference trunk for synthesizing voices;

a memory for grouping at least two telephone numbers of ~~[[the]]~~ an extension number assigned to the extension and the telephone number of the line wire, into at least one group and for registering the group; and

a controller for controlling the exchanging action either between the line wire and the extension or between the extensions,

wherein when said controller receives a conference opening demand together with a group number for a conference communications via a first extension, said controller:

performs a conference calling termination by acquiring the number of other extensions belonging to the same group as that of the first extension having demanded the conference communications, from said memory; and

controls said time-division switch so as to establish unidirectional communications from ~~[[said]]~~ the first extension to the other extensions responding to the conference calling termination,

wherein said controller controls, when it receives a demand for bidirectional

communications from any extension for the unidirectional communications, said time-division switch and said conference trunk so that the extension having demanded ~~[[said]]~~ the bidirectional communications and ~~[[said]]~~ the first extension may make bidirectional communications, and

wherein in ~~[[said]]~~ the bidirectional communications among three or more ~~said~~ of the first extension and the other extensions, said controller controls, when it selects the extension for a secret from the extensions of the bidirectional communications and receives a secret communication demand via ~~[[said]]~~ the first extension, said time-division switch for ~~[[the]]~~ a secret communications so that only the extension selected and ~~[[said]]~~ the first extension.

18. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 17,

wherein said controller further includes a tone generator and controls said time-division switch and said tone generator for transmitting a standby holding sound from said tone generator to the other extension which has been controlled from ~~[[said]]~~ the bidirectional communications to a control not to participate in ~~[[said]]~~ the secret communications.

19. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 17,

wherein said controller: controls said conference trunk in addition to said time-division switch to perform the bidirectional communications; transmits the signal synthesized by said conference trunk, as a reception voice between the other extensions controlled not to participate in ~~[[said]]~~ the secret communications from said bidirectional communications; and

makes ~~[[said]]~~ the bidirectional communications between the other extensions, which are

controlled from [[said]] the bidirectional communications to the control not to participate in [[said]] the secret communications.

20. (Currently Amended) The exchange according to Claim 17,
wherein said controller controls, in [[said]] the secret communications when it receives a secret ending demand via [[said]] the first extension, said time-division switch and said conference trunk so that [[said]] the bidirectional communications may be made again between the extensions having made [[said]] the bidirectional communications.

21. (Currently Amended) A conference communication method for an exchange including a plurality of line interfaces to be connected with a line wire, and one or more extension interfaces to be connected with an extension, for connecting either the line wire and the extension or the extension and the extension, thereby to form a channel, wherein another exchange includes:

a time-division switch for connecting the line wire and the extension and for forming a channel between each other;

a conference trunk for synthesizing voices;

a memory for grouping at least two telephone numbers of [[the]] an extension number assigned to the extension and the telephone number of the line wire, into at least one group and for registering the group; and

a controller for controlling the exchanging action either between the line wire and the

extension or between the extensions,

wherein [[the]] said controller comprises: a conference opening demanding step of receiving a conference opening demand via a first extension and the group number; a conference calling termination step of performing a conference calling termination by acquiring the number of other extensions belonging to the same group as that of [[said]] the first extension having demanded [[said]] a conference communications, from [[the]] said memory; and a unidirectional communication step of controlling said time-division switch so as to establish unidirectional communications from [[said]] the first extension to the other extensions responding to [[said]] the conference calling termination, and

wherein said controller further comprises: a bidirectional communication demanding step of receiving a demand for bidirectional communications from any extension for [[said]] the unidirectional communications; a bidirectional communication step of controlling [[the]] said time-division switch and said conference trunk so that the extension having demanded [[said]] the bidirectional communications and [[said]] the first extension may make bidirectional communications; and an attending step of transmitting [[the]] a signal synthesized by said conference trunk, as a reception voice to the other extension not participating in the bidirectional communications, so that the other extension not participating in [[said]] the bidirectional communications can be attended.

22. (Previously Presented) The exchange according to Claim 10, wherein said controller performs the conference calling termination and starts a time measurement, and stops, when a

predetermined time elapses before the other extension responds, the conference calling termination at the unresponding other extension.